

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a nitric oxide (NO) associated disorder in a mammal, wherein the disorder is hypertension, ~~diabetes~~, thrombosis, angina, atherosclerosis, or heart failure, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of VEGF receptor agonist that exhibits selective binding affinity for a KDR receptor and induces NO production in the mammal, wherein the agonist comprises a VEGF variant having:
  - a) one or more amino acid substitutions at or between residues F17 to Y25 ; and
  - b) one or more amino acid substitutions in a loop containing FLT-1 contact residues D63, E64, and E67 at or between residues D63 to E67;wherein and the binding affinity of the agonist for FLT-1 receptor is reduced as compared to the binding affinity of native VEGF for FLT-1 receptor.
- 2-7. (canceled)
8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said effective amount of VEGF receptor agonist enhances nitric oxide production in said mammal.
- 11-13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) A method of stimulating sustained production of endogenous NO in an endothelial cell, comprising exposing the endothelial cell to an effective amount of a VEGF receptor agonist that exhibits selective binding affinity for a KDR receptor and induces up-

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

regulation of NO synthase (eNOS) in the endothelial cell, wherein the agonist comprises a VEGF variant having one or more amino acid substitutions in a loop containing FLT-1 contact residues D63, E64, and E67, wherein one or more of residues G65 or L66 are substituted and the binding affinity of the agonist for FLT-1 receptor is reduced as compared to the binding affinity of native VEGF for FLT-1 receptor.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~14, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one or more amino acid substitutions at or between positions 17 to 25 of the native VEGF sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4).

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein in VEGF variant comprises at least the following amino acid substitutions: M18E, Y21L, Q22R and Y25S.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~14, wherein the amino acid substitution(s) comprises D63S, G65M, or L66R.

20-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the amino acid substitution(s) comprises D63S, G65M, or L66R.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the amino acid substitutions comprise D63S, G65M, and L66R.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the amino acid substitutions comprise D63S, G65M, and L66R.

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 261, wherein ~~the amino acid substitution(s)~~  
~~comprises one or more of amino acid substitution(s) at positions~~ residues M18, Y21, Q22, or Y25  
are substituted.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 2627, wherein the amino acid substitution(s)  
comprises one or more of M18E, Y21L, Q22R, or Y25S.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the amino acid substitutions  
comprise M18E, Y21L, Q22R, and Y25S.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 2627, wherein the VEGF variant comprises  
one of the following combinations of amino acid substitutions:

- (a) M18E, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (b) Y21L, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (c) Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (d) Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (e) M18E, Y21L, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (f) M18E, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (g) M18E, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (h) Y21L, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (i) Y21L, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (j) Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (k) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (l) M18E, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (m) Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (n) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and D63S;
- (o) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and G65M;
- (p) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and L66R;

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

- (q) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, and G65M;
- (r) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, and L66R;
- (s) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, G65M, and L66R; or
- (t) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one of the following combinations of amino acid substitutions:

- (a) M18E, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (b) Y21L, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (c) Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (d) Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (e) M18E, Y21L, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (f) M18E, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (g) M18E, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (h) Y21L, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (i) Y21L, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (j) Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (k) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (l) M18E, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (m) Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R;
- (n) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and D63S;
- (o) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and G65M;
- (p) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, and L66R;
- (q) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, and G65M;
- (r) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, and L66R;
- (s) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, G65M, and L66R; or
- (t) M18E, Y21L, Q22R, Y25S, D63S, G65M, and L66R.

32. (new) A method of treating a nitric oxide (NO) associated disorder in a mammal, wherein the disorder is hypertension, thrombosis, angina, atherosclerosis, or heart failure,

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of VEGF receptor agonist that exhibits selective binding affinity for a KDR receptor, wherein the agonist comprises a VEGF variant having two or more amino acid substitutions in a loop containing FLT-1 contact residues D63, E64, and E67, wherein one or more of residues G65 or L66 are substituted and the binding affinity of the agonist for FLT-1 receptor is reduced as compared to the binding affinity of native VEGF for FLT-1 receptor.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein the amino acid substitution comprises D63S, G65M, or L66R.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the amino acid substitution comprises D63S, G65M, and L66R.

35. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein upregulation of eNOS is sustained for more than 24 hours.

36. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein upregulation of eNOS is sustained for at least 2 days.

37. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein upregulation of eNOS is sustained for at least 3 days.

38. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein upregulation of eNOS is sustained for at least 4 days.

39. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein NO production is sustained for more than 24 hours.

40. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein NO production is sustained for at least 2 days.

Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Amendment dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

41. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein NO production is sustained for at least 3 days.
42. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein upregulation of eNOS is sustained for at least 4 days.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**